

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) A method for administering distribution of content, the method comprising:

receiving, from a user terminal, a request for that includes content specifying information which specifies the content from desired by a user terminal;

transmitting the content specifying information to a content provider;

obtaining the specified content from a the content provider;

encrypting the specified content using a content key;

adding a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content;

transmitting the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to a player;

generating a use condition associated with the content ID for specifying use of the specified content in accordance with the use condition; and

at a time subsequent to the transmitting of the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player,

receiving, when the user wishes to reproduce the encrypted content using the player, a request for the content key and the use condition from the player through the user terminal, the request including the content ID, and

in response thereto, transmitting the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player,

receiving, from the player through the user terminal, an encoded message indicating that the

player has received the content key and the use condition, and

decoding the encoded message to confirm that the player has received the content key and the use condition.

39. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising generating the content key.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising compressing the specified content.

41. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising encrypting the content key prior to the transmitting of the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

42. (previously presented) The method according to claim 38, further comprising:

executing a process to share a session key with the user; and

encrypting the use condition using the session key prior to the transmitting of the use condition.

43. (currently amended) An apparatus for administering distribution of content, the apparatus comprising:

an administration center receiving means for receiving, from a user terminal, a request for that includes content specifying information which specifies the content from desired by a user, terminal, for transmitting the content specifying information to a content provider, obtaining means for obtaining the specified content from a the content provider, encrypting means for encrypting the specified content using a content key, adding means for adding a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content, transmitting means for transmitting the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to a player, and generating means

for generating a use condition associated with the content ID for specifying use of the specified content in accordance with the use condition,⁺

the administration center~~receiving means~~, at a time subsequent to the ~~transmitting means~~ transmitting of the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player, receiving a request for the content key and the use condition from the player through the user terminal when the user wishes to reproduce the encrypted content using the player, the request including the content ID, and in response thereto, the transmitting means transmitting the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player, receiving, from the player through the user terminal, an encoded message indicating that the player has received the content key and the use condition, and decoding the encoded message to confirm that the player has received the content key and the use condition.

44. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, ~~further comprising second generating means for wherein the administration center generates~~ the content key.

45. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, ~~further comprising compressing means for wherein the administration center compresses~~ the specified content.

46. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the administration center ~~encrypting means~~ encrypts the content key prior to the ~~transmitting means~~ transmitting the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

47. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, ~~further comprising executing means for wherein the administration center executes~~ a process to share a session key with the user, and ~~wherein the encrypting means encrypts the~~

use condition using the session key prior to the transmitting means transmitting the use condition.

48. (currently amended) An apparatus for administering distribution of content, the apparatus comprising:

an administration center ~~a receiving unit~~ that receives, from a user terminal, a request for that includes content specifying information which specifies the content from desired by a user, terminal, that transmits the content specifying information to a content provider, an obtaining unit that obtains the specified content from the a content provider, ~~a encrypting unit~~ that encrypts the specified content using a content key, ~~an adding unit~~ that adds a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content, ~~a transmitting unit~~ that transmits the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to a player, ~~and a generating unit~~ that generates a use condition associated with the content ID for specifying use of the specified content in accordance with the use condition;

the administration center ~~receiving unit~~, at a time subsequent to the transmitting unit ~~transmits of the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player, receives a request for the content key and the use condition from the player through the user terminal, the request including the content ID when the user wishes to reproduce the encrypted content using the player, and in response thereto, the transmitting unit transmits the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player, receives, from the player through the user terminal, an encoded message indicating that the player has received the content key and the use condition, and decodes the encoded message to verify that~~

the player has received the content key and the use condition.

49. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, ~~further comprising a second generating unit that~~ wherein the administration center generates the content key.

50. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, ~~further comprising a compressing unit that~~ wherein the administration center compresses the specified content.

51. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, ~~wherein the~~ wherein the administration center ~~encrypting unit encrypts the content key before the transmitting unit transmits the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.~~

52. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 48, ~~further comprising an executing unit that~~ wherein the administration center executes a process to share a session key with the user, and wherein the encrypting unit encrypts the use condition using the session key before the transmitting unit transmits the use condition.